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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

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Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to the following patents and/or other documents which may be material to the examination of this application. The Examiner is urged to consider these documents and make them of record in this application. This submission is not intended to constitute an admission of any kind, and in particular is not an admission that any patent, or other document referred to herein constitutes a printed publication or is otherwise properly citable as prior art with respect to this application. No representation is made that a search has been conducted or that no more material information than that cited herein exists.

Accordingly, this submission is not intended to take the place of the Examiner's own independent search of the art.

## **CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby declare that the attached Patent Application and filing fee has been mailed by U.S. Postal Service's "Post Office to Addressee" Express Mail service in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, Box Patent Application, prior to 5:00 p.m. on the

day of January, 2001.

Patricia E. Wilson

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A list of the patents and/or other documents is set forth on the attached Form(s) PTO-1449.

A copy of each of these documents or translations or abstract as appropriate, is attached or will be forwarded as soon as it becomes available.

> Respectfully submitted, Gerhard P. Weber

by: Heidi S. Nebel. Reg. No. 37,719

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